

Implementation of 2003 Legislation Regarding Transit Asset Management

BRIEFING PAPER

Prepared for the
June 2005 Transportation Commission Meeting

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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this briefing paper is to present to the Commission for certification the Transit Asset Management Plans developed in response to the legislative direction contained in state law.

ACTION/OUTCOME:

Commission certification of the Transit Asset Management Plans that have been received and reviewed by WSDOT.

BACKGROUND:

In 2003, the Legislature enacted SSB 5248 regarding several transportation issues. Part three of the legislation established maintenance and preservation management requirements for cities, counties and transit entities. The legislation also required transit entities to submit an asset management plan to the Washington State Transportation Commission for certification as a condition of receiving state funding. This statutory requirement did not change during the last legislative session. The legislation is codified under the following RCW's:

- RCW 35.84.060, City Transit Authority
- RCW 36.56, County Transit Authority
- RCW 36.57A, Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority
- RCW 81.112, Regional Transit Authority

The statutes require that as a condition of receiving state funding, all Washington public transportation agencies are required to submit a maintenance and preservation management plan for all transit system assets to the Transportation Commission for certification. The plan must inventory all transportation system assets within the direction and control of the agency and provide a preservation plan based on lowest life-cycle cost methodologies.

The Transportation Commission approved the final framework and certification process at the February 2005 Commission meeting.

DISCUSSION:

The Public Transportation and Rail Division established an Expert Panel to assist with the implementation of this requirement. The panel consisted of representatives from the Washington State Transit Association's Maintenance Committee (two from each size of transit system) and from the Washington State Transit Insurance Pool. WSDOT provided monthly updates to the General Managers and Maintenance Managers of all transit systems. In addition, a formal comment period was conducted for accepting transit agency comments on the proposed plan.

When presented with the recommendation in August 2004, the Transportation Commission directed staff to recognize the current preventative maintenance efforts of public transit agencies in developing the plan.

The Transportation Commission approved the final framework and certification process at the February 2005 Commission meeting. WSDOT staff and the Transit Maintenance Expert Panel conducted two one-day training classes and distributed written guidance and an optional plan template to all transit agencies to assist them in development of their individual plans. In addition, staff provided technical assistance to those agencies whose asset management plans did not meet minimum requirements.

Most transit agencies already had a written preservation plan and established preventative maintenance procedures that meet the minimum requirements. Staff has reviewed all asset management plans that have been submitted to date.

RECOMMENDATION:

Request the Transportation Commission to certify the Transit Asset Management Plans submitted to them at the June Commission meeting.

For further information, contact Paula Hammond, Chief of Staff, 360-705-7027 or Judith Giniger, Public Transportation and Rail Director, 360-705-7921.